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STAFFORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for

1 9 5 2 .

F. W. GAVIN, M.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Univ. Edin.)

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Field and Gnetlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the Startforth Rural District for the year ended 31st December 1952. Dr. Priestman resigned his office as Medical Officer of Health on the 31st August 1952, and my duties commenced on 1st September 1952.

The mid-year population, as estimated by the Registrar General was 4,302, an increase of 10 on that for the year 1951. (The 1951 Census population was 5,097). The figures used in this report are on the former population.

The Birth Rate was again higher than that for England and Wales and is very similar to the rate in 1951.

It is pleasing to record no maternal deaths for the past four years and only one death in an infant due to prematurity and which occurred at Greenbank Hospital, Darlington.

The Death Rate was slightly lower in 1952 than in the previous year and is somewhat higher than that for England and Wales; and in this connection 13 deaths were in the 65/75 age group and 24 in the over 75 age group. There were no deaths from Tuberculosis, but 8 were caused by Cancer, a disease which remains a deadly and unsolved menace despite intensive research.

The chief cause of death was Heart Disease, a find-which is common for England and Wales.

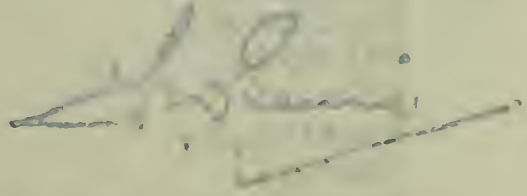
Infectious Diseases were at a low ebb during the year and notifications of Tuberculosis were one less than in 1951.

Successful vaccinations numbered 28 of which number 20 were in the 0 - 5 years group; these figures cannot be regarded as satisfactory considering the number of births (70) in the year.

Diphtheria has been practically extinguished owing to the complete success of artificial immunisation, and it must be remembered that only by immunisation can this very dangerous disease remain conquered.

The number of visits of domiciliary midwifery was 1395 compared with 1730 in the previous year, the number of Home Nursing visits 2806 compared with 3325 in 1951, and the number of Health Visits 3390 compared with 3701 last year.

The public health work of the District has been carried out as usual and I would like to thank your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Ashcroft, for his kind co-operation at all times and my clerical staff for their constant help and conscientious work.



Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health - Austin Priestman, M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H., resigned 31 August 1952.

- E. W. Gavin, M.D., M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H. Appointed 1st Sept. 1952.

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. E. Ashcroft, C.R.S.I., Ass.M.Inst.
San. Engs.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of the District in acres	...	97,630
Resident Population	...	4,302
(Registrar General's Mid-year estimate)		
Number of inhabited houses	...	1,399
Rateable value at 1st April 1952	...	£ 50,400
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£ 207.
Rate in £ levied at 1st April 1952	...	19/6

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS. The number of live births registered during the year was 70, as against 72 in 1951. The birth rate comparisons shows that the rate for the District is in excess of that for the rest of England and Wales.

Birth Rate Comparisons. (per 1,000 estimated population)

	<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Still Births</u>
Startforth Rural District 1952	16.27	.67
Startforth Rural District 1951	16.77	.23
England and Wales 1952	15.30	.35

Analysis of Births.

	<u>Live Births</u>				<u>Still Births</u>			
	<u>1952</u>		<u>1951</u>		<u>1952</u>		<u>1951</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Legitimate	38	30	38	32	1	2	.	1
Illegitimate	1	1	.	2	.	.	.	.

Residential distribution of Births during 1952.

	<u>Live Births</u>		<u>Still Births</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Baldersdale	.	1		
Barforth	1	.		
Barningham	3	2		
Boldron	2	.		
Bowes	5	5		
Brignall	.	1		
Cotherstone	2	2	.	1
Gilmonby	.	1		
Greta Bridge	1	.		
Holwick	.	2		
Hutton Magna	.	3		
Lartington	1	.		
Lunedale	.	2		
Mickleton	.	3		
Ovington	1	.		
Rokeby	3	3		
Romaldkirk	4	.		
Scargill	1	.		
Startforth	14	6	1	1
Wycliffe	1	.		

DEATHS. Maternal Mortality. Again, as in the past four years there was no case of a woman dying in, or in consequence of childbirth in the District; this compares very favourably with the maternal mortality rate for the rest of England and Wales, which, for 1952 was .72 per 1,000 total births.

Infantile Mortality. The number of infants (under one year) who died during 1952 was one, as against two in 1951, which shows a lower rate than that for the rest of England and Wales for 1952.

Infantile Mortality Comparisons. per 1,000 live births.

Startforth Rural District 1952	14.28
Startforth Rural District 1951	27.40
England and Wales 1952	27.60

Analysis of Infantile Deaths, Sexes and Ages.

1. Immaturity, Premature birth (28 weeks pregnancy) Premature Rupture of Membranes. Female. 3 days.

Deaths from all Causes During 1952 there were 52 deaths from all causes registered in the District, as against 56 in 1951: though the rate is again higher than that for the rest of England and Wales it is noted that 22 deaths were in the 55/75 age group and 24 in the over 75 years age group.

Deaths rates comparisons. Death Rate per 1,000 population.

Startforth Rural District 1952	...	12.09
Startforth Rural District 1951	...	13.05
England and Wales 1952	...	11.30

<u>Causes of all Deaths and Sexes</u>	<u>1951</u>		<u>1952</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
T/B of Respiratory System	.	.	.	.
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach.	1	1	.	.
" " Lung, Bronchus	.	.	.	.
" " Breast	.	1	.	2
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	3	3	3	3
Diabetes	.	.	.	.
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	3	9	2	5
Coronary Diseases, Angina.	1	.	5	3
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	.	.	2
Other Heart Diseases	6	5	6	11
Other Diseases of Circulatory Diseases	1	2	.	.
Influenza	.	2	.	.
Pneumonia	1	1	.	2
Bronchitis	.	.	.	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	.	.	.	.
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	.	.	.
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1	1	.
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	.	.	.
Congenital Malformations	.	1	.	.
Other Defined and Ill-defined diseases	3	1	2	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents	.	.	.	.
All other Accidents	1	2	.	1
Suicide	.	.	.	.
Totals	27	29	19	33

Ages at Death - from all causes.		1952	1951
From birth to one day	...	1	2
From one day to one week	...	1	1
Under one year	...	1	2
From 1 to 25 years	...	1	1
From 25 to 55 "	...	4	6
From 55 to 65 "	...	9	1
From 65 to 75 "	...	15	15
Over 75 "	...	24	31
Totals		52	56

Number of Deaths from the Seven Chief Causes and comparisons with the previous year.

No. of Deaths		Causes of Death.	Rate per 1000 pop.	
1951	1952		1951	1952
9	8	Cancer	2.10	1.86
4	3	Respiratory (not T/B)	.93	.70
14	27	Heart Disease	3.26	6.28
.	.	T/B. - Pulmonary	.00	.00
.	.	T/B. - Nonpulmonary	.00	.00
3	.	Other Circulatory Diseases	.70	.00
12	7	Vascular Lesions of Nervous Sys	2.80	1.62
42	45	Totals	9.79	10.46

Residential Distribution of Deaths from all Causes		1951		1952	
		M	F	M	F
Baldersdale	...	.	1	1	.
Barforth	...	.	1	1	.
Barningham	...	.	.	2	3
Boldron	...	2	1	.	1
Bowes	...	5	4	3	3
Brignall	...	1	.	1	1
Cotherstone	...	12	8	5	9
Egglesstone Abbey	...	.	.	1	.
Gilmonby	...	2	.	.	.
Greta Bridge	...	1	1	.	.
Holwick	...	.	1	.	.
Hunderthwaite	...	.	.	.	.
Hutton Magna	...	2	.	.	.
Lartington	...	.	1	1	.
Lunedale	...	1	1	.	.
Mickleton	...	1	4	1	4
Ovington	...	.	1	.	1
Rokeby	...	.	1	1	.
Romaldkirk	...	2	4	1	3
Startforth	...	1	1	1	8
Totals		31	30	19	33

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. There were 25 cases of notifiable diseases reported during 1952, as against 68 cases in 1951.

Analysis and Comparisons with 1951		1951	1952
Scarlet Fever	...	2	2
Measles	...	23	12
Acute Pneumonia	...	3	1
Erysipelas	...	1	.
Food Poisoning	...	.	1
Whooping Cough	...	37	7
Malaria	...	.	1
Chicken Pox	...	2	1
Totals		68	25

Residential Distribution of Infectious Diseases notified during 1952.

	Measles	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Chicken Pox	Malaria
Barningham	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bowes	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
Cotherstone	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Greta Bridge	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Holwick	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Lartington	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Mickleton	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Ovington	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Romaldkirk	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Startforth	1	.	6	.	.	.	.	.
Totals	12	1	7	2	.	1	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS. There were two new notifications of Tuberculosis during the year, compared with three in 1951.

Analysis of Tuberculosis notifications.

1. Female, aged 38, Pulmonary, Resident of Rokeby.
2. Female, aged 4, Pulmonary, Resident of Rokeby.
Mother and Daughter.

Deaths from Tuberculosis. Once again there were no deaths from Tuberculosis; the same as in 1950 and 1951.

VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNISATIONS. Records received from medical practitioners show that there were 28 vaccinations carried out during the year, as against 18 in 1951. 30 immunisations were carried out during the year, as against 22 in 1951.

Comparisons and Age Groups of Vaccinations and Immunisations.

	1951		1952	
	0 - 5	years over 5	0 - 5	years over 5
Successful Vaccinations	12	6	20	8
Completed Course of Immunisation	22	10	23	7

Residential Distribution of Vaccinations and Immunisations.

	Vaccinations		Immunisations	
	0 - 5 years	over 5	0 - 5 years	over 5
Baldersdale	1	.	.	.
Barningham	1	.	.	.
Boldron	2	.	1	.
Bowes	1	1	3	1
Brignall	.	.	1	.
Cotherstone	1	.	1	1
Holwick	.	.	3	.
Hutton Magna	1	5	.	.
Lartington	1	.	1	.
Lunedale	2	.	1	.
Mickleton	2	.	2	3
Ovington	.	.	1	.
Rokeby	.	.	1	.
Romaldkirk	1	.	2	.
Startforth	7	2	6	2
Wycliffe	.	.	1	.
Totals	20	8	23	7

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT 1946.

- Section 22. Care of Mothers and Young Children.
 Section 23. Domiciliary Midwifery.
 Section 24. Health Visiting.
 Section 25. Home Nursing.

Four District Nurse/Midwives employed by the North Riding County Council carry out the duties required by the above four sections. There is one Infant Welfare Centre in the District, - at Barningham, which is under the jurisdiction of the County Council and which is attended by a local practitioner and the District Nurse/Midwife for that area; full advantage being taken of the facilities offered.

Number of visits paid to the patients by the District Nurse/Midwives during 1952 under the following categories, and compared with the same categories for 1951.

<u>Category</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
Domiciliary Midwifery	1730	1395
Home Nursing	3325	2806
Health Visiting	3701	3390

Section 27. Ambulance Service. The North Riding County Council provide this service by arrangement with the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, who have three vehicles stationed at Richmond and, with the Hospital Car Service, under the jurisdiction of the Women's Voluntary Service. These two services adequately cover Richmond Borough and the Rural Districts of Richmond, Croft, Startforth and Reeth.

Section 28. Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.

The work of vaccination and immunisation, together with the advice spread by those working in the Public Health Service, Inspectors, Midwives, Maternity and Child Welfare Officers, Doctors, and Nurses, must all have a beneficial effect on the general health of the community.

Section 29. Domestic Help Service. This service is provided by arrangement with the North Riding County Council, and during 1952 five cases received help, as compared with four cases in 1951. the analysis and comparison being as follows:-

<u>Category</u>	<u>1951</u>		<u>1952</u>	
	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Domiciliary Attendance	3	685	3	295
Chronic Sick	1	365	1	179
Sick Housewife	1	1	1	30
Totals	4	556	5	474

Section 51. Mental Health. No Committee in the Area and no case arose during 1952 - as in 1951.

Dental Service. This service is provided by arrangement with the County Council.

National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47. No cases removed during the year.

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The remainder of this report was compiled by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. P. Ashcroft.

Total number of inspections for nuisance only	130
Total number of nuisances found	56
Total number of Statutory Notices served	7
Total number of Informal Notices served	36

Rural Housing Survey.

The following work has been carried out during the year:-

Number of houses inspected - 104

The result of the categories being as follows:-

Satisfactory in all respects	...	12
Minor defects	...	23
Repairs of structural alterations	...	55
Suitable for Housing (Rural Workers) Acts		8
Unfit	...	3

Very little work has been carried out under this heading because improvements cannot be carried out at reasonable costs and no grants are available under the Housing Act of 1949.

Closet Accommodation. Most of the houses in the District are on the pail system and the majority of these are in Parishes without main sewerage and water. Until the Parishes are properly sewered and provided with adequate water supplies conversions cannot be entertained. During the year the following work has been carried out under this heading:-

Number of new WCs. provided ... 8

Number of pail conversions to WCs. 6

Scavenging. Public scavenging is in operation in the following Parishes:- Startforth, Lartington, Cotherstone, Rmaldkirk, Mickleton, Holwick, Rokeby, Bowes, Boldron, Hutton Magna, Ovington, Barningham and sections of Lunedale, Barforth, Scargill and Wycliffe. The collection of refuse from Deerbolt Camp is also undertaken. Two Karrier Scavenging Vehicles are used with a driver/loader and a loader on each. The refuse is deposited at tips that are semi-controlled.

Scavenging - continued.

The system of collection and disposal is satisfactory in every way. During the year under review no complaints have been received.

Infectious Diseases. All cases notified have been investigated and rooms occupied by patients have been effectively fumigated with formalin.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948. We have on the register 19 premises. Inspections have been made during the year with regard to cleanliness, sanitary conveniences, temperature and ventilation.

Number of inspections	23
Number of defects found	10
Number of defects remedied	10

Inspection and Supervision of Food. No slaughtering takes place in private slaughterhouses. Pigs are slaughtered on private premises for own consumption. If notifications ~~is~~ ^{are} given of slaughtering inspections are made.

Rodent Control. The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 has again had our attention during the year as will be shown by the following:-

Number of manholes baited	190
Number showing signs	56
Refuse tips treated -	
Rokeby	1
Barningham	1
Sewage Works - Ovington	1
Domestic premises treated	18

Sewerage. At the present time there are sewers and disposal works in the following Parishes:-

Startforth,
Cotherstone (the only Parish with modern works)
Bowes, Romaldkirk, Barningham, Mickleton.

The Startforth Works are overloaded and cannot cope with any additional houses. The Bowes Works are carrying out treatment in a satisfactory manner during normal weather. During rainy periods too much surface water is admitted to the sewers. The Romaldkirk Works would be improved if sludge beds were provided. The Barningham and Mickleton Works are completely obsolete.

During the last five years the Council have had the following schemes prepared:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Estimated cost on 1939 prices</u>
Barningham	£ 3140
Boldron	£ 2270
Bowes	£ 3520
Hutton Magna	£ 3310
Lartington	£ 2950
Mickleton	£ 5570
Ovington	£ 2780
Romaldkirk	£ 1550
Startforth	£ 6520

Water Supply. 1. The water supply of the district has been satisfactory (a) in quality and (b) in quantity in all Parishes except Boldron and Ovington where a shortage existed during August and September because of the drought. 2. Our main supply is from the Tees Valley Water Board. Samples of water taken by us for bacteriological examination from public supplies have proved to be satisfactory. 3. The various supplies within our district are not liable to have plumbo-solvent action. 4. At Bowes and Barningham where chlorinators have been provided, samples taken during the year have all be satisfactory.

